WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

SPORTS

Following close loss to Arlington, Winchester wrestlers bounce back in annual Warrior Duals

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

January 23, 2026 . 1:00 PM — 3 min read

The Winchester Red & Black wrestling team poses for a photo after participating in the annual Warrior Duals at Brookline High School on Jan. 17. COURTESY PHOTO/LIAM RITTENHOUSE

After the Winchester High wrestling team dropped a close match visiting Arlington on Jan. 14, 39-28, they didn't waste any time to

Subscribe

their winning ways during a weekend tournament in Brookline.

The Spy Ponders brought a large squad with lots of JV wrestlers to the first dual league home match in the new WHS gym. An equally impressive fanbase also came out to witness history, which only hyped the energy level.

Maria Baldwin (113-pounds), Kai Napadow Baquero (120, tech fall), Eddie Donlon (138, pin), Jack Allen (144, major decision), Luca Kovacev (165), Ilyas Malik (175) and Shaun Garrett (215) recorded the Winchester wins, exactly one-half of the varsity matches that were on the docket.

“Unfortunately, in the end, it just wasn’t enough against a tough Arlington team that scored bonus points in most of their wins,” said Assistant Coach Vitaly Napadow.

A trip to Brookline followed for the Winchester wrestlers to participate in the annual Warrior Duals at Brookline High School on Jan. 17. By the end of the day, the Red & Black came away with a 5-0 record to win the tournament.

Among the winning wrestlers were senior captains Napadow Baquero (120), Donlon (138) and Malik (175), who was also chosen the tournament’s Most Outstanding Wrestler during the awards ceremony.

Sophomore Leo Gannon (132) and Allen (144) rounded out the local wrestlers, who achieved perfection.

Several other Winchester wrestlers gutted out tough matches, and among them were Ian Welsh, who returned after a bout with the flu, Kovacev (165, 4-1) and Casey Trumbower (150). Trumbower literally bled for the team to come away with close wins, while keeping the losses to a minim
secure three points for his teammates.

Subscribe

Donate today!

"It was great experience for the entire team since most of the varsity starters picked up wins in five matches, which doesn't happen that often in tournaments," said Napadow. "As we are getting healthy, we are picking up steam and as a result are barreling forward to the postseason. We're hoping for even better health in the coming weeks, and hopefully will get there by the time the postseason rolls around in mid-February."

The JVs competed the next day at the same venue. Edison Zhang and Jacob Quave took home second place finishes. Jacob Lieberman came in third. Declan Price, Jonathan Juarez and Adam Khater ended up in fourth place.

"It was a great showing by the JVs," said Napadow.

The team's overall regular season record after a weekend in Brookline was 10-5.

"It's a solid record, for sure, given our tough in-league and out of league schedule," said Napadow.

The Red & Black have since lost to visiting Woburn, one of the top teams in the state this year, on Jan. 21, 45-25. After the match against the Tanners, head coach Ryan Errico's team has been preparing for a Saturday (Jan. 24) tournament at West Springfield High School, which will give them a chance to checkout the competition in the western part of the state before the postseason gets underway next month.

Senior Night reminder

After their return from Springfield, the Winchester grapplers wi
gearing up for Lexington in a home matchup on Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 7

Subscribe

p.m.

Prior to the start of that match, the Red & Black seniors will be honored for their contributions to the program the last four years. It's always a special night for the seniors, and this one will be no different.

Joe McConnell is a longtime, award-winning sports editor for numerous North Shore publications. He began covering Winchester sports for the News in November 2024.

Winchester News is a non-profit organization supported by our community. If you appreciate having local Winchester news, please donate to support our work, and subscribe to our free weekly newsletter. Copyright 2025 Winchester News Group, Inc. Copying and sharing with written permission only.

Related

SPORTS

Winchester boys basketball heads to Bridgewater-Raynham for Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

SPORTS

Winchester wrestling enjoys Top 10 finish at state divisi senior captains mov States

Subscribe

It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two during the regular season, thus making this Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR
March 3, 2026

After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard over two days last weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the State Division 1 Meet at North Andover High School, Mother Nature gave them a break to rest and recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR
February 28, 2026

SPORTS

Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR
February 27, 2026

SPORTS

With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoop seniors English, Sarpong, Burbine join Middlesex League elite

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR
February 26, 2026

Latest

Subscribe

FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and

NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Wi es on firearms licenses in com Massachusetts communities Active licenses

Subscribe

his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Subscribe to Winchester News

© 2026 Winchester News Group, Inc. Copying and sharing with permission for non-commercial use only.

Subscribe